

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4890

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN PLO XF

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR AND PLO REP OF TRAVEL

PLANS AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR ARAFAT AND PLO DEL

REF: USUN 4886

USUN 4872

BEIRUT 13389

1. AMB SCHAUFLE AND MISOFF LORENZ CALLED ON EGYPTIAN PERMREP
MEGUID AND PLO NEW YORK REP HASAN EARLY AFTERNOON NOV 9 TO
DISCUSS ARAFAT'S TRAVEL PLANS AND GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PLO DEL.

2. SCHAUFLE FIRST REVIEWED CURRENT STATE OF OUR THINKING
REGARDING PLO ACCOMMODATIONS. HE SAID MOST LIKELY POSSIBILITIES
WERE PRESTIGIOUS HOTEL WITHIN EASY REACH OF UN AND NEARBY
APARTMENT HOUSE, BOTH OF WHICH WERE BEING ACTIVELY CHECKED OUT
BY SECRET SERVICE. SCHAUFLE AGREED WITH MEGUID THAT UN
HEADQUARTERS ITSELF WAS POSSIBILITY (WALDHEIM YESTERDAY
HAVING CONSENTED TO USE OF HEADQUARTERS AS LAST RESORT),
BUT SAID US AS HOST COUNTRY FELT OBLIGATION TO UN AND TO
PLO TO PROPOSE BEST POSSIBLE ACCOMMODATIONS. SCHAUFLE
EMPHASIZED THAT AT NO TIME HAD THERE BEEN ANY INTENT TO
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ISOLATE PLO FROM NORMAL AND APPROPRIATE CONTACTS, EVEN WHEN

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND WAS PRIMARY POSSIBILITY. BOTH MEGUID AND HASAN SAID THEY WERE WELL AWARE US WAS DOING EVERYTHING HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO AFFORD PLO MAXIMUM SECURITY AND EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION. MEGUID CLEARLY PREFERRED NON-UN LODGING FOR PLO.

3. SCHAUFEELE SAID ONE PROBLEM WHICH VERY MUCH CONCERNED US FROM SECURITY STANDPOINT WAS ARAFAT'S TRAVEL PLANS. WE UNDERSTOOD THESE ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING WORKED OUT IN CAIRO, BUT OUR EMBASSY THERE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHEN, HOW, OR WITH WHOM ARAFAT WOULD TRAVEL. MEGUID SAID HE WAS IN EXACTLY SAME SITUATION. HE ASSUMED THAT FOR SAKE OF SECURITY ARAFAT'S TRAVEL PLANS WERE BEING HELD SMALLEST POSSIBLE GROUP, PROBABLY EXTENDING TO FONMIN FAHMY AND ONLY ONE OR TWO OTHERS. HASAN INTERJECTED THAT HE TOO HAD NO INFORMATION REGARDING TIME OR MODE OF ARAFAT'S TRAVEL AND SAID HE DIDN'T EXPECT ANY. MEGUID SAID HE HAD ASSUMED SECRETARY KISSINGER MIGHT BE AWARE OF ARAFAT'S PLANS SINCE BY COINCIDENCE SECRETARY HAD BEEN IN CAIRO WHEN HE UNDERSTOOD SADAT AND ARAFAT WERE CONSIDERING THE MATTER. IN ANY CASE MEGUID SAID HE WOULD WIRE CAIRO IMMEDIATELY TO OBTAIN AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ABOUT ARAFAT'S TRAVEL PLANS, LENGTH OF STAY AND SIZE OF ACCOMPANYING PARTY SO THAT US WOULD HAVE ADEQUATE LEAD TIME FOR SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. HE HOPED TO HAVE ANSWER FOR US BY LATE NOV 9 OR NOV 10.

4. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO PLO OFFICIAL AND INFORMATION DELS. HASAN SAID HE HAD SPOKEN EARLIER WITH HEAD OF PLO BEIRUT OFFICER AL-HOUT ABOUT INFORMATION DELEGATION'S SIZE AND AL-HOUT HAD AGREED TO DO HIS BEST TO HOLD NUMBER DOWN TO TEN. HASAN SAID TRAVEL PLANS FOR BULK OF OFFICIAL AND INFORMATION DELS WERE NOW FIRM. 15 OR 16 MEMBERS OF BOTH DELS PLANNED TO TRAVEL BY AIR FRANCE FLIGHT 077 NOV 11, ARRIVING NEW YORK FROM PARIS AT 14:55 NEW YORK TIME. PARTY WILL LEAVE BEIRUT 3:20 AM BEIRUT TIME ON AIR FRANCE FLIGHT 187. MEGUID WONDERED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR US SECURITY OFFICER TO ACCOMPANY PLO FROM BEIRUT. SCHAUFEELE SAID THIS SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT FIRST BLUSH AND WE CERTAINLY WOULD LOOK INTO IT. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY DIKEUS HAS BEEN INFORMED AND WOULD WELCOME POST COMMENTS.

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5. MEGUID SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF ONE MEMBER OF PLO DEL ARRIVING MONDAY WERE DESIGNATED AS POINT OF CONTACT FOR LIAISON WITH USG, AND HASAN AGREED TO MAKE THIS RECOMMENDATION. SCHAUFEELE NOTED THAT FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER (CLUVERIUS) WOULD BE COMING UP FROM WASHINGTON TO SERVE FULL-TIME IN THIS FUNCTION FOR US SIDE.

SCHAUFEELE

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